

CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. A method in a switch having ports connected to a crosspoint switch of the switch, the crosspoint switch having inputs and outputs connected to the ports, the crosspoint switch for connecting one port to another port, the crosspoint switch having at least one output that is not connected to a port, the method comprising:
- providing a reserved address;
 - receiving data through a source port, the received data having an address;
 - and
 - when the address of the received data matches the provided reserved address, directing the crosspoint switch to connect the source port to the output that is not connected to a port so that data addressed to the reserved address is routed to the output not connected to a port.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the output not connected to a port is connected to a device that is external to the switch.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the reserved address identifies that the received data is related to an upper layer protocol.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the upper layer protocol is a Fibre Channel upper layer protocol.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the upper layer protocol is an InfiniBand upper layer protocol.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the reserved address identified that the received data is administrative data.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the crosspoint switch has at least one more output than the number of ports of the switch.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the switch is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the data is a frame.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the address of the received data is a virtual address.

[c11] 11. A routing device comprising:
a plurality of ports;
a switch having switch ports connected to the ports and having at least one switch port that is not connected to a port;
a component that receives communications at a source port;
a component that directs connecting of the source port to the switch port that is not connected to a port based on an indication that a communications is administrative; and
a component that transmits the communication from the source port to the switch port that is not connected to a port.

[c12] 12. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the switch port that is not connected to a port is connected to a device that is external to the routing device.

- [c13] 13. The routing device of claim 12 wherein the device that is external to the routing device hosts a network manager for controlling a network of routing devices.
- [c14] 14. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the indication that the communications is administrative is a reserved address of the communications.
- [c15] 15. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the switch port that is not connected to a port is connected to a device that provides a Fibre Channel upper layer protocol.
- [c16] 16. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the switch port that is not connected to a port is connected to a device that provides an InfiniBand upper layer protocol.
- [c17] 17. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the switch has at least one more switch port than the number of ports of the routing device.
- [c18] 18. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.
- [c19] 19. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.
- [c20] 20. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the communications is a frame.
- [c21] 21. The routing device of claim 11 wherein the indication that the communication is administrative includes a virtual address.

- [c22] 22. A method in a routing device having routing device ports connected to a crosspoint switch of the switch, the crosspoint switch having switch ports connected to the routing device ports, the method comprising:
- receiving a communication through a source routing device port; and
 - when the received communication indicates that it is administrative, directing the crosspoint switch to connect the source routing device port to a switch port connected to a device for processing administrative communications.
- [c23] 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the switch port that is connected to the device for processing administrative communications is not connected to a routing device port.
- [c24] 24. The method of claim 23 wherein in device includes a network manager.
- [c25] 25. The method of claim 22 wherein the switch port that is not connected to a routing device port is connected to a device that is external to the routing device.
- [c26] 26. The method of claim 22 wherein the communication indicates that it is to be process by an upper layer protocol.
- [c27] 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the upper layer protocol is a Fibre Channel upper layer protocol.
- [c28] 28. The method of claim 26 wherein the upper layer protocol is an InfiniBand upper layer protocol.

[c29] 29. The method of claim 22 wherein the crosspoint switch has at least one more switch port than the number of routing device ports.

[c30] 30. The method of claim 22 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c31] 31. The method of claim 22 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c32] 32. The method of claim 22 wherein the communication is a frame.

[c33] 33. The method of claim 22 wherein the communication includes a virtual address designating that the communication is administrative.

[c34] 34. A routing device comprising:
a plurality of routing device ports;
switching means for connecting a switch port to another switch port, each routing device port being connected to switch port;
an administrative port connected to a switch port;
means for configuring the switch means to connect a switch port connected to a source routing device port that has received an administrative communication; and
means for transmits the administrative communication from the source routing device port to the switch port that is connected to the administrative port.

[c35] 35. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the administrative port is connected to an administrative device.

[c36] 36. The routing device of claim 35 wherein the administrative device hosts a network manager for a network of routing devices.

[c37] 37. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the administrative port is connected to an administrative device that is external to the routing device.

[c38] 38. The routing device of claim 37 wherein the administrative device hosts a network manager for controlling a network of routing devices.

[c39] 39. The routing device of claim 34 wherein a communication is indicated as being administrative by a reserved address of the communication.

[c40] 40. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the switch port that is connected to an administrative port is connected to a device that provides a Fibre Channel upper layer protocol.

[c41] 41. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the switch port that is connected to an administrative port is connected to a device that provides an InfiniBand upper layer protocol.

[c42] 42. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the switching means has at least one more switch port than the number of routing device ports.

[c43] 43. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the routing device is Fibre Channel compatible.

[c44] 44. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the routing device is InfiniBand compatible.

[c45] 45. The routing device of claim 34 wherein the communications is a frame.

[c46] 46. The routing device of claim 34 wherein a virtual address indicates that the communication is administrative.

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